

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-14, and 16-17 remain in the application. Claim 16 has been amended by incorporating therein the subject matter of claim 19. Claims 4 and 19 are hereby canceled. Claims 7, 15, and 18 were previously canceled.

Claim 4 is canceled per the Examiner's request at paragraph 2 of the Office Action.

Claim 16 has been amended by incorporating therein the subject matter of claim 19 as suggested by the Examiner in paragraphs 6-7 of the Office Action. Claim 19 is therefore canceled. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claim 19.

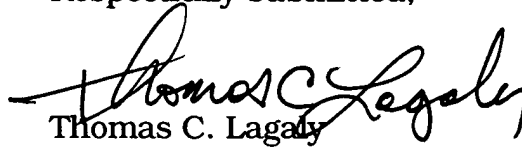
As to the claim rejections under 35 USC §102(e) over Feichtinger, Applicants agree that such reference teaches foam compositions made from a blend that includes silane-grafted, essentially linear polyolefins, wherein such polyolefins are copolymers of ethylene and an alpha-olefin. However, Applicants respectfully disagree that such silane-grafted polyolefins have a density of 0.86-0.96 g/cc and a melt index of 0.5-100 dg/min. Rather, as col. 6, lines 36-40 make clear, such density and MI values are for the pre-grafted/pre-crosslinked polyolefin starting materials, i.e., such values are attributed to the polyolefins "in an uncross-linked sense." Later in his patent, Feichtinger goes on to describe the silane-grafting and cross-linking process to which the starting linear polyolefins are subjected (see, e.g., col. 7, lines 8-29; col. 18, lines 11-32). As demonstrated in Applicants' previous response, silane-grafting of ethylene polymers results in a substantial decrease in the melt flow index of such polymers.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Feichtinger does not teach or suggest a foam as claimed, wherein the foam comprises a

blend of a low density polyethylene and an ethylene polymer having a melt flow index of greater than 10 g/10 minutes. Feichtinger only teaches the MI of the linear polyolefins prior to being silane-grafted and made into a foam.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants respect that the claims as now presented are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas C. Lagaly", is written over the printed name.

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